

# The BROADAX

HEW TO THE LINE.

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## THE 89TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS

His Life and Times Vividly  
Portrayed by Charles W. Chesnutt.

So far something like one dozen books and pamphlets have been written and published pertaining to the rise of Frederick Douglass, from the lowest depths of slavery and poverty, to the highest prominence in all the affairs of this great nation, and while all of these books or pamphlets have been exceedingly instructive as to the doings of Frederick Douglass, none of them can surpass the latest life of that great historical character by Charles W. Chesnutt, who is the foremost Afro-American writer in America, and his classical literary productions, should find their way into the homes of every race or liberty loving Negro throughout this broad land.

In his new book on the Life and Times of Frederick Douglass, Mr. Chesnutt, very vividly and fascinatingly traces or portrays his stormy career from the slave pen to the lecture platform, the editor's chair, and on up to United States Marshal and Recorder of Deeds for the District of Columbia.

The biographical sketch of the Life and Times of Frederick Douglass, as set forth by Mr. Chesnutt, is as follows: Frederick Douglass was born at Tuckahoe, near Easton, Talbot County, Maryland, the latter part of February, in 1817, and if he was on earth, today he would be eighty nine years old. The first few years of his boyhood days were spent with the other slaves on the farm, and in March 1825 he was sent to Baltimore to live with a relative of his master, and in 1833, he was taken to St. Michael's Md., to live again with his master.

January, 1834, he was sent to live with Edward Covey, a slave-breaker, with whom he spent the year; but the slave-breaker could never break Frederick Douglass, and each day or every time the slave-breaker attempted to whip him, he stood up like a brave man and fought him to a stand still. In 1835-36 he was hired to William Freeland; he made his first unsuccessful attempt to escape from slavery, was sent to Baltimore to learn the ship-calker's trade; in 1838, he hired his own time and worked at his trade.

September 3, 1838, Frederick Douglass, escaped from slavery and went to New York City where he became united in marriage to Miss Anna Murray. From that city he went to New Bedford, Mass., and assumed the name of "Douglass." In 1841 he attended an anti-slavery convention at New Bedford, and swayed the meeting to and fro with his matchless eloquence; later on he was employed as agent of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society, and from that time onward he was a conspicuous figure in the Anti-Slavery movement on both continents. In 1842, he took part in the Rhode Island campaign against the Dorr constitution. He continued to lecture on slavery, and moved to Lynn, Mass., in 1843, and took part in the famous "One Hundred Conventions" of the New England Anti-Slavery Society; in 1844 he lectured with William Lloyd Garrison, Parker Pillsbury, Foster, and others, and the first part of 1845 he published his Narrative.

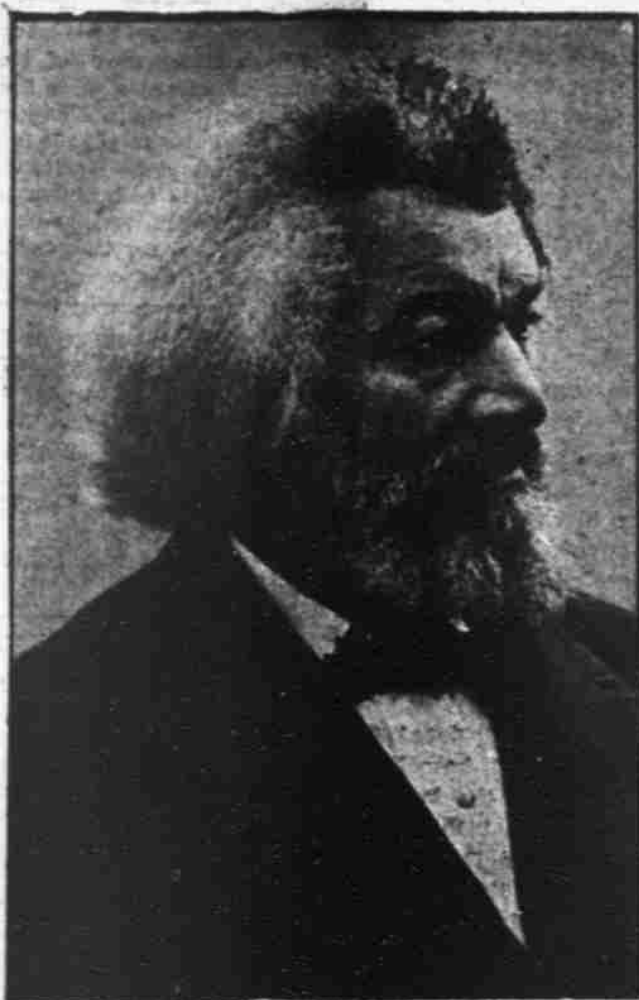
In 1845-46, he visited Great Britain and Ireland, remaining in Europe two years lecturing on slavery and other

subjects, and while in England he was presented with sufficient money to purchase his freedom, and to establish a newspaper. On returning to the United States in 1847, he moved with his family to Rochester, New York. Where he established his paper, The North Star, or Frederick Douglass' Paper, which he ably edited for seventeen long years, and he mortgaged his home and all his possessions for the purpose of raising money in order to keep it going, for then as now the vast majority of the free Colored People residing in the North had not the faintest conception of the power and influence which newspapers exert over the minds of the People, in the discussion of all subjects affecting their rights and their liberties.

In 1848-49 he visited John Brown, at Springfield, Mass., and lectured on slavery and Woman Suffrage, and assisted in the escape of fugitive slaves. In 1852, he supported the Free Soil Party, and was elected delegate to the Free Soil convention at Pittsburgh, Pa., and delivered speeches along with John P. Hale, the Jeffersonian Democrat who was the nominee of the Free Soil Party, for President of the United States in 1852, and who was appointed as minister to Russia by Abraham Lincoln. In 1856 Frederick Douglass supported Fremont and Dayton for President and Vice-President of the United States, established Douglass' monthly, entertained John Brown at his home in Rochester, visited England for the second time in 1859, lectured and spoke in England and Scotland for six months, and arrived in this country in time to assist in the election of Abraham Lincoln President of the United States.

In 1863, he assisted in recruiting the Fifty-fourth and Fifty-fifth Colored regiments of Massachusetts, and in that same year he was invited to visit President Lincoln, and to confer with the President, as to the status of the Negro during the progress of the war; in 1866, he was active in procuring the franchise for the freedmen; elected delegate from Rochester to the National Loyalists' Convention which met in Philadelphia; in 1869 he moved to Washington D. C.; and established the New National Era; in 1870, he was appointed secretary of the Santo Domingo Commission by President Grant; in 1877, chosen Marshal for the District of Columbia by President Hayes; that same year he visited his old slave home in Maryland, and met his old master; in 1878, bust of Frederick Douglass placed in Sibley Hall of Rochester University; he spoke against the proposed Negro exodus from the South; in 1881, he was selected as Recorder of Deeds for the District of Columbia by President Garfield; August 4, 1882, death of Mrs. Frederick Douglass; in 1884, Frederick Douglass married Miss Helen Pitts; in May, 1888, he lectured on John Brown, at Music Hall, Boston; Sept. 10 he attended a dinner given in his honor by the Wendell Phillips Club of Boston; in 1894-97, he and Mrs. Douglass visited Great Britain, France, Italy, Greece and Egypt.

In 1899, he was appointed United States Minister, Resident and Consul-General to the Republic of Haiti; and charge d'affaires to Santo Domingo, by President Harrison; in 1896 he resigned as Minister to Haiti; and in



FREDERICK DOUGLASS.

Whose matchless oratory or eloquence swayed the people on two continents during the agitation of the slavery question in America and whose labors in behalf of his fellow creatures in chains will never grow dim in the hearts of those who truly love justice and liberty!

1893, he acted as commissioner for Haiti at the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago.

Feb. 20, 1895, death of Frederick Douglass at his elegant residence on Anacostia Heights, Washington, D. C., his funeral which was attended by distinguished men and women of both races, was one of the largest ever held at the Capital of the nation, and his remains were transported to his old home, at Rochester, New York, for interment, where a substantial monument has been erected to his memory.

The latter part of February, 1888, the writer and Mrs. Taylor had the honor and the extreme pleasure of attending the 71st birthday anniversary of Frederick Douglass at the Metropolitan church, Washington, D. C., and for one hour we had the honor of sitting by his side, and Mr. Douglass related to us some of the trials and hardships he endured while lecturing throughout the North and West, and he said that "away back in the 50's he visited Peoria, Ill., for the purpose of delivering an anti-slavery oration," but there was not one hotel or lodging house in that town which would sell him anything to eat or a bed to sleep in for love or money. Col. Robert G. Ingersoll, the infidel, whose father was a Presbyterian minister, was the only man in Peoria who had the courage to frown upon the Christians, and he entertained Mr. Douglass at his home, and from that time to the death of Frederick Douglass he and Col. Ingersoll were fast friends. He visited St. Paul, Minn., about the same time, and he was confronted with the same conditions there which he had met with at Peoria, and Patrick Kelly, who was for many years the head and front of the Democratic party in the Northwest, and member of the Democratic National Committee, entertained Mr. Douglass at his home.

The last time we met Mr. Douglass was during the World's Fair, and as soon as he laid his eyes on us he extended his hand and called us by name, for he prided himself on being able to remember the names of all those with whom he had come in contact. For many years the Free Thinkers or the Infidels claimed Mr. Douglass as one of their own, as he did not take much stock in the religion of the cross, for he contended that the Christian religion fosters and encourages race prejudice and race hatred, therefore it must be a false system of religion. He was the first or the only Afro-American to be honored by President Grover Cleveland, or by any other President, with an invitation to attend a diplomatic dinner and reception at the White House.

Throughout his long official career he was never charged with committing one dishonest act, and from the

cradle to the grave, figuratively speaking, in season and out of season, he manfully contended for the full manhood rights of all men regardless of their race or nationality. Today, while celebrating the 89th anniversary of his birth, it is well to remember that he never used strong liquor nor tobacco in any manner, shape or form; that his language was always pure and as clean as a snow-white lily; that he held all decent women in the highest esteem, and in these respects it would be well if all men and many women followed in the footsteps of Frederick Douglass!

### The Death of Paul Laurence Dunbar, the Famous Poet.

Last Friday night Paul Laurence Dunbar, who had become famous as a poet throughout the civilized world, passed away at his home in Dayton, Ohio.

Beginning life as an elevator boy, he gradually rose in the literary world until he became the acknowledged poet of the Afro-American race, and his writings were on a par with the greatest poets of the age.

He was in his 34th year at the time of his death, and he was the author of well on to twenty-one books. His death will be a great loss to the lovers of poetry and fiction.

### NOTES FROM NORMAL, ALABAMA.

Mrs. Lulu M. Jackson of Ky., Field agent of the Women's Auxiliary of the National Baptist Convention delivered an able address to the teachers and students last Tuesday. The financial support given to the great Baptist Convention through Mrs. Jackson was surprising and gratifying.

Bishop H. M. Turner and Rev. T. J. Linton of Atlanta were guests of the Institution last week. Bishop Turner delivered an able and encouraging address. Rev. Linton preached a splendid sermon.

The plans for rebuilding the Carnegie Library have been approved and the rebuilding has begun with the assurance that it will be done by the first of May.

Chief John M. Collins and State Attorney John J. Healy are deserving to be highly commended for causing Mayor E. F. Dunn to revoke the licenses of many tough saloons or resorts which have in the past been the rendezvous of many women and young girls who have been led to ruin by the depraved characters who have in the past congregated in them. Let the good work by State Attorney Healy and the city officials go on in this direction.

## WHERE LIES THE BLAME?

Influence of Godless Men Makes  
Church Powerless.

THAT "OMNIOUS INDIFFERENCE."

Bishop Smith a Victim—The Gang Supported—Bishop Shaffer and Lee Lack in Courage—Cases Cited—The "Shouting Bishop."

Editor Johnson of the Christian Endeavor, Jan. 25th says: "It is only in place to demur at the ominous and painful indifference of those who have it largely in their power to remedy the evils alluded to." Of course he refers to the bishops of the A. M. E. church. "Omnious indifference," yes, this is just what I accuse them of. They know full well that the church is growing powerless, through the blighting influence of a lot of Godless ministers, who drink whiskey, destroy virtue, play the races, loot churches, forge notes, give worthless checks to the dollar money committee to support big reports, etc., etc. And yet, with all this knowledge before them, they are so very different that the men who do these things are never punished, or even lowered in their assignments.

When the Bishops' Council met in Mobile, Ala., the January before the last general conference they had before them a letter written by an elder in good standing informing them that in one city there were stationed in the three principal A. M. E. churches two drunkards and a basely immoral man, who had been proven guilty of adultery. The writer stated further that he was ready to furnish the evidence to any committee which the council might appoint to investigate his statements. He not only wrote this letter to the council, but to each of the bishops previous to the session. Now, I admit at once that, technically, the council had no authority in the case, since each bishop is supreme in his own district. But the same council did appoint a bishop to go to New Orleans to look into affairs there, where Bishop Smith was losing some members, who insisted on having a drunkard for their pastor. Bishop Smith had done just what any Christian bishop should have done and the council thought it awful because he would lose a few members by such action. But this accusation against three pastors in one city was so small a matter that they paid no attention to it. When two of the bishops were accosted about it they said that the majority of the bishops would not stand by the persecution of those men, and it would not be worth while to undertake it. Each of those men were subsequently transferred to as good appointments as the church contains.

On the other hand, Bishop Smith's fight against drunkards and grafters in Louisiana made him the target of all the malice of that same class of men in the general conference, encouraged by certain shouting bishops, and was the real root of the great fight made upon that prelate at Chicago. The gigantic effort to disrobe Bishop Smith, and which did send him to South Africa, and has not let up on him even there, simply serves notice to every Bishop who may think of punishing one of the prominent rascals who disgrace many of our pulpits, that they will have the whole gang to fight if they dare to begin, and that the majority of bishops will stand with the gang. Many will be surprised at these words, which indirectly endorse Bishop Smith, but the time has come when the truth must be told on

friend and foe alike. I never was friendly to the election of Bishop Smith, and I openly opposed his assignment to Louisiana, where I was then stationed. My reasons were honest and my fight was honorable. Personally he and I could not agree while associated together there, nor do we agree now. He condemns my manner of trying to reform the church. But whatever were my objections to his election, I am happy to say that my intimate association with him for the last six years have not supported my fears about him. In all that time I have never had reason to doubt his moral or religious character. I believe that by the grace of God he has triumphed over the faults which once threatened his usefulness, and I am certain that no man on the bench has a stronger desire to set the church right than he. More than that, he has the moral courage to do his duty when he sees it. That is the reason why the corruptionists, on and off the bench, are trying so hard to kill him. He is a dangerous man to that class.

Now, there is Bishop Lee, a man against whose private life not a breath of suspicion has even been whispered a man of giant intellect and strong personality. Some of us thought that he would be the man around whom we could rally to make a fight for reform. Since the last general conference a personal letter was written to him by an honorable elder in the church, praying him to take hold of the situation and try to set in motion the renovation which would serve the church. But he did not have the moral courage to make the first move, not even to reply to the brother's letter. There is Bishop Schaffer, a man of excellent character and great ability. When he was assigned to the Fourth Episcopal district we all looked to see a great cleansing out of the vile heritage left him by the shouting Bishop. But again we were doomed to disappointment. He has gone right on appointing and transferring men to fine churches whom he knows to be drunkards and adulterers, men who will give worthless checks, to pay off their big dollar money. He also has been personally appealed to, to save the church and the race from the disgrace which certain of his preachers were bringing upon us, but he could not, or was afraid to do anything. Possibly it was because these rascals are proteges of other bishops longer on the bench than he.

And now the dispatches tell us that Bishop Derrick clears up the muddle about Phillip A. Hubert, who was arrested for raising money under false pretenses for Wilberforce. But unfortunately the bishop's clearing does not clearly very well. According to this dispatch the bishop authorized Hubert to raise \$50,000.00 with which to "surprise" the authorities at Wilberforce. Well, who is this man to whom the bishop could intrust such a valuable secret and such large funds? Is not this the same Hubert who was once dismissed from the agency of Wilberforce on account of crooked dealing? Is not this the same Hubert whom the

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